

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR VE CU

SUBJ: CUBA/VENEZUELAN RELATIONS

1. CARACAS DAILY EL UNIVERSAL ON APR 22 CARRIES A WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM HAVANA ON A VISIT TO CUBA BY SONIA PEREZ, DAUGHTER OF RESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PERE. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO AND VICE PRIME MINISTER RAUL CASTRO MET WITH MISS PERZ, WHO HEADED A DELEGATION FROM THE VENEZUELAN FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION. OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MEETING WERE CUBAN MINISTER OF FOOD INDUSTRY JOSE NARANGO, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND FILM INDUSTRY ALFREDO GUEVARRA, AND CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA NORBERTO HERNANDEZ. THE CUBAN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND FILM INDUSTRY REPORTEDLY EXTENDED THE INVITATION TO THE VENEZUELAN FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION.

2. COMMENT: THIS VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO CUBA IS ONE OF A SERIES OF QUIET CONTACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE VENEZUELA RECOGNIZED CUBA LAST DECEMBER. CUBA HAS SENT A MERCHANT MARINE TRAINING SCHOOL SHIP TO VENEZUELA TO LOAD RICE, HAS BEEN PROMOTING PACKAGE TOURS TO CUBA, HAS ATTENDED GOV-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON CARIBBEAN TOURISM, AND IS PRESENTLY STAGING CUBAN DANCE AND MUSIC GROUPS IN CARACAS. VENEZUELAN VISITORS TO CUBA SINCE DECEMBER INCLUDE GROUPS OF EDUCATORS AND JOURNALISTS, A DELEGATION OF ACCION DEMOCRATICA YOUTH LEADERS, AND AN AD DEPUTY. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN A SERIES OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE VENEZUELAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CTV) AND

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THE CUBAN LABOR CENTRAL, AS REPORTED BY THIS EMBASSY.

3. IT IS INTERESTING TO CONTRAST THE REPORT OF PEREZ'S DAUGHTER
CONSORTING WITH CASTRO WITH A PICTURE APPEARING IN THE CARACAS
PRESS AT THE SAME TIME OF PERZ CHATTING AMIABLY WITH JOSEF
CARDINAL MINDSZENTY.
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